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## SURFACE HARDENING TREATMENT OF SOFT MAGNETIC PRECISION PARTS

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### Abstract of JP62133080

PURPOSE:To improve the wear resistance of a material to be treated without losing the magnetic characteristics by subjecting the material to annealing in vacuum, specified pretreatment for plating and electroless chemical Ni-B plating. CONSTITUTION:Precision parts made of soft magnetic silicon steel are annealed in vacuum so as to obtain desired magnetic characteristics and to prevent the formation of oxide films on the surfaces. The parts are pretreated by degreasing with an org. solvent, degreasing with alkali, pickling and treatment for removing silicon oxide with a mixed acid-inhibitor soln. The parts are then subjected to electroless chemical Ni-B plating.

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## Description

- 1. Title of the Invention
- 15 METHOD OF SURFACE HARDENING TREATMENT OF SOFT MAGNETIC PRECISION PARTS
  - 2. Claims

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A method of a surface hardening treatment of a soft magnetic precision part comprising the steps of

annealing precision parts made of soft magnetic silicon steel in vacuum,

pretreating the parts by degreasing with an organic solvent, degreasing with alkali, pickling and treatment for removing silicon oxide with a mixed acid-inhibitor solution, and

subjecting the parts to electroless chemical nickel-boron plating.

30 3. Detailed Description of the Invention [Field of Industrial Application]

The present invention relates to a method of a surface hardening treatment of precision parts, which constitute a magnetic circuit and require wear resistance, such as an armature or a yoke used in a printing drive section of a printer.

[Prior Art]

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Conventionally, the precision parts requiring soft magnetic characteristics such as an armature and a yoke used in a printing drive section of a printer are coated with nickel plating, zinc plating, chrome plating or electroless nickel-phosphorus plating for imparting a rust preventing property and wear resistance to the surfaces of electromagnetic soft-iron, silicon steel or the like.

[Problems to be Solved by the Invention]

In the above-mentioned conventional examples, nickel plating and zinc plating have a surface hardness of about HV 400 and have a problem with wear resistance. Chrome plating has a surface hardness of about HV 300 and is advantageous in terms of durability, but this is electric plating, a covering power of plating to the part is uneven, and this plating is not suitable for mass production. Since the surface hardness in the case of electroless nickel-phosphorus plating is also as low as HV 400 or less, there is a problem with wear resistance. In addition, if the parts are heat treated at around 400°C after the electroless nickel-phosphorus plating, the surface hardness is increased to about HV 800, but the part cannot be employed because deterioration of the intrinsic magnetic characteristics is caused in the part material in this case. [Means for Solving the Problems]

The present invention has been made to solve these problems in conventional examples, and pertains to a method of a surface hardening treatment in which, first, silicon steel members are annealed in vacuum to obtain characteristics and to prevent the formation of oxide films on the surfaces, and then pretreated by degreasing with an organic solvent, degreasing with alkali, pickling and treatment for removing silicon oxide with a mixed acid-inhibitor solution, and thereafter, the members are subjected to electroless chemical nickel-boron plating, and thereby the hardness of a material to be treated is enhanced without losing the magnetic characteristics.

[Examples]

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First, 3% silicon steel is used as a material and formed into a predetermined part configuration. This silicon steel has excellent magnetic characteristics but it is a material that is likely to form an oxide film  $(SiO_2)$  because of an active surface.

In the treatment method according to the present invention, as the first step, the silicon steel is annealed at  $850^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 1 hour in vacuum to obtain the intrinsic magnetic characteristics of the silicon steel and to prevent the formation of oxide films on the surface of the silicon steel. In this case, in an atmosphere of non-oxidation,  $N_2$  or Ar, other than a vacuum atmosphere, the surface of the silicon steel is apparently finished gloriously, but an adhesion property after final plating finish is insufficient and heat treatment in a vacuum atmosphere is required.

As the second step, the following pretreatment steps are performed in prior to electroless nickel plating.

- (1) As degreasing, the silicon steel is treated with an organic solvent primarily to remove a mineral oil. 1,1,1-trichloroethane, for example, is used as an organic solvent and the silicon steel is immersed in the organic solvent for about 3 minutes with an ultrasonic vibration being applied to the solvent.
- (2) Next, as second degreasing, the silicon steel is immersed in a mixed alkali-surfactant solution, for example, a commercially available alkali degreasing agent such as o-sodium silicate, for about 3 minutes while oscillating the silicon steel to be treated primarily to remove an animal oil and a vegetable oil.
- (3) Next, the silicon steel is immersed in a 7% aqueous hydrochloric acid solution for about 10 to 30 seconds while oscillating the silicon steel to be treated primarily to remove iron oxide.

(4) Furthermore, the silicon steel is immersed in a diluent of a mixed acid-inhibitor solution, predominantly composed of a fluorine compound, for 10 to 30 seconds while oscillating the silicon steel to be treated primarily to remove silicon oxide.

After the above-mentioned pretreatments (1) to (4), finally, the silicon steel is immersed in a solution of electroless nickel plating, containing dimethylamine-borane as a reducing agent, to deposit about 8 to 12 µm of a layer of electroless chemical nickel plating in which about 1% of boron is added to nickel to enhance the durability of the silicon steel to be treated. When a thickness of deposit is less than 8 µm, adequate durability cannot be obtained, and when the thickness is more than 12 µm, there is a difficulty in the adhesion property.

The nickel-boron plating of the resulting material to be treated undergone the above steps has a surface hardness of HV 700 or more and the durability is improved.

Using an impact dot printer in which the treatment method of the present invention is applied to a yoke of a printing mechanism, this printer was compared with a printer in which a silicon steel coated with conventional nickel plating is used. The durability of the printer based on the present invention was outstandingly brought up to about one hundred millions of characters compared with about thirty millions of characters in the printer based on conventional plating.

[Effects of the Invention]

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In accordance with the present invention, it is possible to form a hardened layer with a good adhesion property on the soft magnetic precision parts by plating while maintaining magnetic characteristics of the soft magnetic precision parts.

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69発明の名称

軟磁性精密部品の表面硬化処理方法

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明 細 書

### 1. 発明の名称

軟磁性精密部品の表面硬化処理方法

2. 特許請求の範囲

軟磁性ケイ素鋼よりなる精密部品に対し、 東空中で焼鈍する工程と、

メッキの前処理として、有機溶剂による脱脂処理、アルカリによる脱脂処理、酸洗い処理、さらに酸とインヒビターの混合液によるシリコン酸化物除去処理を順次ほどこす工程と、

ニッケル・ボロン系無電解化学メッキを施す工程、

とを含む軟磁性精密部品の表面硬化処理方法。 3. 発明の詳細な説明

[産業上の利用分野]

この発明は、ブリンターの印字駆動部に使用されるアーマチァやヨークのように、磁気回路を構成するとともに耐摩耗性が要求される精密部品の 表面硬化処理方法に関するものである。

# [従来の技術]

従来において、軟磁特性が要求される精密部品、たとえばブリンターの印字駆動部のアーマチェ、ヨーク等には、電磁軟鉄、ケイ素鋼等の表面に防錆および耐摩性を付与する目的でNiメッキ、2nメッキ、Crメッキ、Ni-P無電界メッキなどがほどこされている。

[発明が解決しようとする問題点]

上記従来例において、Niよッキ、2 n メッキは表面硬度がHV400程度であり耐摩耗性で問題がある。CrメッキはHV800程度であり耐度であるが超気メッキのため部品ののメッキの付き回りにムラがあり、 歴産上不りのといって問題である。なおNiーPメッキでも耐摩耗性がHV400以るに向上するが、その場合材料本来の磁気特性に分化が生じるため使用することができない。

[問題点を解決するための手段]

この発明はこうした従来例における問題点を解

### [ 実施例]

まず 案材として 3 %ケイ 案 類を用い、所定の部品形状に加工しておく。このケイ 素類は 磁気特性はすぐれているが、表面が活性のため酸化膜 (Sion O)を形成しやすい材料である。

本発明による処理法は、第一ステップとして、ケイ素解本来の磁気特性を得る目的とともにケイ素調表面に酸化膜の形成防止を兼ねて、真空中において 8 5 0 ℃、 1 時間の焼鈍をおこなう。 この場合、真空雰囲気以外の N 2 、 A r 等の無酸化雰

ながら10~30秒間浸漬する。

上記(1) ~(4) の前処理を施した後、最後に被処理物の耐久性を上げる目的で、ジメチルアミンボランを還元剤としたニッケル無電解メッキ液中に浸漬して、ニッケルに1%程度のボロンを添加した無電解化学Niメッキ層を8~12μm程度付替させる。8μm未満では十分な耐久性を得ることはできず、12μmを超えると密着性に難が生じてくる。

以上の工程を経て得られた被処理材はNi-B 系のメッキによる表面硬度はHV700以上得られ、耐久性が向上する。

インバクト型ドットプリンタの印字機構のヨークに本発明の処理を施したものを用いて、従来のNiメッキのものを使ったプリンタと印字回数を比較すると、従来のものでは300万字程度の耐久性であったのに対し、本発明のものでは約1億字と耐久性が飛躍的に向上した。

### [発明の効果]

この発明によれば、軟磁性精密部品に対し、磁

間気では表面見かけ上光輝に仕上がるが、最終的なメッキ仕上り後の密着性が不十分であり、真空雰囲気による無処理が必要とされる。

第二のステップとして、無道解Niメッキの前処理として次の工程の処理をする。

- (1) 脱脂処理として、主に鉱物油の除去を目的として有機溶剤による処理をする。有機溶剤として、例えば1-1-1トリクロルエタンの液中に超音波をかけて約3分間浸消する。
- (2) ついで第二の脱脂処理として、主に動、植物油の除去を目的として、アルカリと表面活性剤の混合液、たとえばオルソケイ酸ソーダのような市販のアルカリ脱脂剤で、被処理材を揺動しながら約3分間液中に浸漬する。
- (3) つぎに主に鉄の酸化物の除去を目的として、7%の塩酸水溶液中で約10~30秒被処理材を 温動しながら浸渍する。
- (4) さらに主にシリコンの酸化物の除去を目的として、フッ素化合物を主成分とした、酸とイン ヒピターの混合液の希釈液中に被処理物を揺動し

性特性を保ちながら、密着性よくメッキによる硬 化層を形成することができる。

> 以 上 特許出願人 株式会社精工会 代理人弁理士 最 上 務/